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ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN MUST INCLUDE ADDICTION ASPECT

PA181342 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Aug 86 p 6-A

[Editorial: "The Joint Antidrug Struggle"]

[Text] The agreements and disagreements of the fifth meeting between Presidents Reagan and De la Madrid in Washington stem from the varying degrees of similarity and the heterogeneity of the topics discussed.

The war against drug trafficking and the consumption of drugs stand out among them, although the latter problem pertains primarily to the United States, because the final destination of drugs is the United States.

Thus, the marked vigorous tone of the conclusions reached by the presidents regarding this problem does not surprise us; they plan to "launch a large-scale coordinated border campaign against the illegal drug trade into the United States and arms into Mexico."

It is obvious that the border area is involved in both flows, because the traffic of drugs and arms is reciprocal. However, we must note there are serious difficulties obstructing efforts to curb drug and arms trafficking with border surveillance alone; the case of drug trafficking deserves a special reflection.

We conclude that a genuine campaign against the criminal drug trade involves a similar measure against drug addiction; so long as there are addicts in the richest country in the world who can afford to nurse their addiction, no border campaign will overcome the traces of frustrating past experiences.

GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS FUEL PRICE INCREASE

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[Text] Noting that the recent gasoline price increase has led to legitimate concern in the community, the Inter-Secretariat Commission of Public Sector Prices and Rates issued an official communique explaining this price adjustment.

The communique noted that the hydrocarbon prices have been falling on the international market and the consumers of the importing countries have benefited from this situation.

This is not the case here because the export of petroleum represents a very important source of revenue for the public sector which has permitted the financing of projects the community demands, including the construction of hospitals, schools, and waterworks and the improvement of basic services. In view of this situation, the government ruled out the suspension of basic projects or printing more money and decided to adjust the prices of the petroleum products.

The communique noted the price of gasoline in Mexico is 10 percent lower than in the United States, a country with one of the lowest gasoline prices in the world. A similar situation occurs with the prices of diesel, fuel oil, and liquified petroleum gas. The communique reiterated that gradual periodic adjustments in the previously mentioned prices have already been announced, and it added that they will be lower than the ones recently made.